



Joe Sanfelippo



Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District

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May 2011

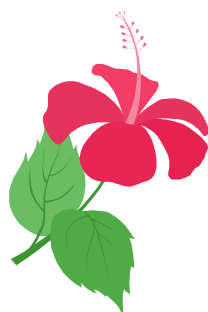
Committee Assignments:

Parks, Energy and Environment (Vice-Chair) • Judiciary, Safety and General Services • Personnel

Dear Friends and Constituents,

May is a very special month as it contains the one-day of the entire year that we pause to honor our Mothers and thank them for all they have done for us. When you stop for a moment to consider everything a Mother does for her family, one day out of the year hardly seems appropriate. But then again, mothers are not in it for the "thanks." We know this because, day-in and day-out, they are there for us, even when their work seems to go unnoticed.

I hope every Mom gets a chance to enjoy their very special day this month in their own way. Whether visiting with family and friends, sitting down with a good book, walking in the park or sleeping till noon, this is your day. Enjoy it!



District 17 Great American Cleanup Events

Greendale

Saturday, May 7, 2011

9:00 to 11:00am

Clean and Green Day includes tree planting and creek clean up.

Meet at the foot bridge that crosses Dale Creek behind the business district.

Contact Carl at (414) 423-2133 for more information



Greenfield

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Registration from 9:00- 10:30am

Meet at Konkell Park, 5151 West Layton Avenue

Contact Joan at 414-545-3381 or by email at treelady@wi.rr.com for more information

West Allis Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30, 2011

10:00am

Parade ends on 70th and National with a Memorial Service at Veteran's Memorial Park at 11:00am

Visit the City of West Allis [website](#) for more information.



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Redistricting

In April, the County Board approved a plan for redistricting that will eliminate one seat, bringing the number of Supervisors down from 19 to 18. I did not support this plan for a number of reasons.

First, a reduction of one seat is simply not enough. In this day and age of tough economic times, everyone is being asked to do more with less. Since the last redistricting, we have cut the overall county workforce by more than 20%. I am a firm believer that whenever frontline employees are reduced management positions should also be reduced. Failure to do so results in an organization becoming top-heavy and inefficient.

Because it ignores some obvious facts, the adopted plan seems to have been drawn based on something other than sound, unbiased and nonpolitical reasoning. For instance, it completely cuts up and eliminates a district that had population growth but virtually leaves intact a district that lost nearly 5,300 residents since the last map was drawn. In addition, the Supervisor representing the district with such a large population loss is retiring and will not run again making it all the more curious as to why this district was not the one to be eliminated.

Every district eliminated would save approximately \$143,000 per year. These savings are especially important because our already tight budget is expected to get even tighter as we continue to deal with stagnant tax revenue and likely cutbacks in state aides. Eliminating just 4 districts would have saved more than \$5.2 million over the next ten years until our next redistricting process takes place.

Finally, the process employed by the Board to approve this plan was completely unacceptable. By state statute, we are given 60 days after receiving the census data to come up with a preliminary plan. Yet, merely 7 days after being introduced to the public, the Board slammed through a plan without giving ample time for the public to view it and offer feedback. By hastily racing through this process the Board has accentuated a brazen indifference to the will of the people and put its own interests above those of the community it serves.

It is regrettable when government acts in this fashion. The entire redistricting process has been tainted and the outcome will have lasting effects for the next ten years.





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O'Donnell Park

You may recall in last month's E-news, I wrote an article about using tax dollars better. In it, I cited the \$1.2 million in decorative panels on the O'Donnell Park parking garage as a waste of money. I was against these panels from the start. A March 16, 2011 [article](#) in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel quoted me saying that the expensive panels should not be installed. So when the County Executive vetoed the panels, why did I change my vote?

Just before the veto override vote took place last week, County Board staff sent a memo informing us that the savings we would realize from cancelling the contract would be more in the range of \$400,000-500,000 and not the \$1.2 million as originally claimed. This is because materials had been purchased and fabrication of the panels had already begun by the contractors. I voted against the veto because cancelling this contract now results in the county throwing away over \$700,000.

Certainly, saving nearly half of a million dollars is nothing to sneeze at. But rather

than throwing \$700,000 out the window, we should have kept the contract in place and capped it at the amount of money already spent.

We could have utilized the panels already built by strategically placing them on the parking garage to improve the look of the building. Proceeding this way would have allowed us to still achieve the savings while at the same time getting something to show for the \$700,000 already spent. Unfortunately, all we have to show for it now is that stinging sensation you get when you know you have just been taken to the cleaners.

Celebrate Mother's Day at the Zoo!

Show your mother how special she is to you by taking her to the Milwaukee County Zoo!

Mothers are **FREE** on Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 8, 2011
9:00am to 4:30pm

10001 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226

